

**PATENT****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In the application of:

Smith et al.

Application No: 09/747,660

Filed: December 22, 2000

For: WAFER BACKSIDE PLATE FOR USE IN  
A SPIN, RINSE, AND DRY MODULE AND  
METHODS FOR MAKING AND  
IMPLEMENTING THE SAME

) Group Art Unit: 1746  
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)  
Examiner: Unassigned  
)  
Atty. Docket No: LAM2P216  
)  
Date: March 12, 2001  
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)

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks, Washington, DC 20231 on March 12, 2001.

Signed: Kay Harlow

Kay Harlow

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Before examination on the merits, please amend this application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 1, line 8, please add the following paragraph:

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is related to U.S. Patent Application No. 09/747,665, filed on the same day as the instant application and entitled "Chuck Assembly for Use in a Spin, Rinse, and Dry Module and Methods for Making and Implementing the Same."--

REMARKS

The Applicants respectfully amend the specification to advise the Office of the related U.S. Patent Application No. 09/747,665, filed on December 22, 2000, and entitled "Chuck Assembly for Use in a Spin, Rinse, and Dry Module and Methods for Making and Implementing the Same."

The Applicants respectfully request examination on the merits of the subject application, and respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. A notice of allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present amendment, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at (408) 749-6903. If any additional fees are due in connection with filing this amendment, the Commissioner is also authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. LAM2P216). A duplicate copy of the transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,  
MARTINE PENILLA & KIM, L.L.P.

  
Albert S. Penilla, Esq.  
Reg. No. 39,487

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Martine Penilla & Kim, LLP  
710 Lakeway Drive, Suite 170  
Sunnyvale, California 94085  
(408) 749-6900  
**Customer No. 25920**